

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shimizu (US 5,684,499). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu in view of Huang (US 6,388,643). These rejections are traversed and are inapplicable to claims 1, 3, and 4 as amended for the following reasons.

Each of independent claims 1 and 4 recite that one field time period comprises: at least one subfield that has an initializing time period, a writing time period, and a sustaining time period; and a plurality of subfields that have a writing time period and a sustaining time period, and do not have an initializing time period. Claims 1 and 4 also include recitations directed to setting of subfield starting timings related to such a field. The applied prior art does not disclose or suggest such a field as recited in claims 1 and 4 and thus also does not disclose or suggest the specifically recited setting of subfield starting timings recited in claims 1 and 4.

Shimizu does not disclose or suggest a field comprising at least one subfield that has an initializing time period, a writing time period, and a sustaining time period; and a plurality of subfields that have a writing time period and a sustaining time period, and do not have an initializing time period as recited in claims 1 and 4.

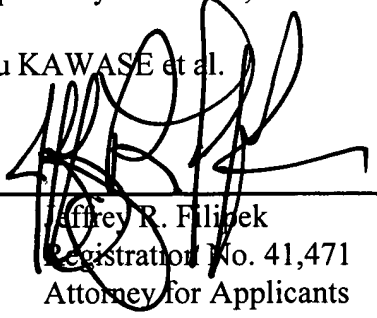
Huang also does not disclose or suggest this recited feature of claims 1 and 4. Rather, as shown in Fig. 6 of Huang, the initialization time period is included in all the subfields.

Because of the above distinctions, the inventions recited in claims 1 and 3 are not anticipated by Shimizu, and no obvious combination of Shimizu and Huang would have resulted in, or otherwise rendered obvious, the invention recited in claim 4. Therefore, claims 1, 3, and 4 are patentable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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